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503.30414V16

OFFICE OF PETITIONS
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): KATO, et al.
Serial No.: 09/552,572
Filed: April 19, 2000
For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING
METHOD THEREFOR
Group: 3749
Attention: Sherry Brinkley
Office of Petitions

PETITION TO WITHDRAW FROM ISSUE BASED ON 37 CFR 1.313(c)(2)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box 313(b)
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 22, 2000

Sir:

Applicants respectfully petition the Commissioner, under 37 CFR 1.313(a) and pursuant to 37 CFR 1.313(c)(2), to withdraw the above-identified application from issue, after payment of the Issue Fee on November 2, 2000. This Petition is being filed, concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination and necessary Submission, in order to have the Examiner consider the Submission filed concurrently herewith. In this concurrently filed Submission, the independent claims of the above-identified application have been amended such that all of the independent claims recite that the opening and closing devices are opened and closed every carrying-in and carrying-out of the substrate, one by one.

Also being submitted together with the Request for Continued Examination and the Submission, is an Information Disclosure Statement submitting additional documents to be

considered by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified application.

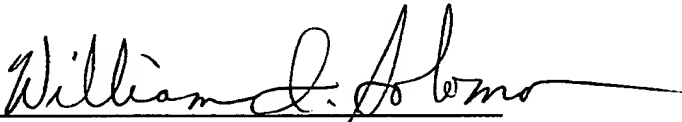
Also submitted with this Petition is the necessary fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i). See 37 CFR 1.313(a).

Granting of this Petition, and withdrawal of the above-identified application from issue, in due course, for consideration of the aforementioned Request for Continued Examination and Submission, and additional documents, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 503.30414V16) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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